AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

RESTRICTED
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

NEA MESSAGE CENTER 259

FROM : AMCONGEN, Lagos, Nigeria

DISP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

DATE May 19, 1953

REF :

1953 MAY 27 AM 8 55

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
kp	NEA	REP EUR OLI E I IBS IFI IIS
	RECD MAY 26	OTHER AG DMPA FRB TR

SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - May 1 - 16, 1953.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR DATE 7-30-00
REVIEWED BY
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

This Document Must Be Returned To: 745H.00/5-1953

LWC FILED JUN 8 1953

POLITICAL

Serious Riots in Kano

Rioting broke out in Kano May 16th and continued 17th. Police in control of situation by night of 17th after at least 40 deaths and 145 injured. Extra police on duty and troops of Nigeria Regiment posted near city as reserves. Violence touched off by visit to city of Action Grouper S. L. AKINTOLA and entourage intending hold political rally among members southern tribes residing in "strangers' town" just outside city walls. Obvious mounting tension prompted local authorities to cancel meeting permit previously issued due fear police could not control large group under prevailing conditions. Akintola planned to speak anyway, crowd gathered, riot started and Akintola quickly flew back to Lagos.

Rioting quickly became [redacted] tribal, with Northerners and Southerners attacking each other on purely tribal basis. Action Group had been warned of possible serious consequences any electioneering in North but paid no heed. Result is serious jeopardy of lives of all Southerners residing, as a minority, in North.

No black vs. white feeling has been seen to date.

Further Developments in Eastern Region Crisis

Long-expected dissolution Eastern House of Assembly announced May 7. Present Eastern Regional Ministers and East's Ministers at Center will hold portfolios until recomposition of House and appointment new ministers. Elections expected within three months and to cover all candidatures anew. Electoral colleges to be reconstituted via coming elections, contrary to expectations many Eastern NCNCers who thought dissolution to mean only new elections to House by electoral colleges. Generally expected people will return majority members seated in old House. Should be noted that majority had joined NCNC party after election first House and may not run on party

RESTRICTED

RWRoss:hgz
REPORTER

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

RESTRICTED
(Classification)

on party ticket at present critical time, although Nnamdi AZIKIWE and party will probably return majority. No indication yet that Zik plans stand for seat in East.

Failure last Eastern House act on bills and present dissolution has left government of Region limping badly. All levels government merely carrying on necessary functions with restricted budgets. Local councils barely functioning and British officials doing what work is being done - hampered by restrictions on authority imposed by present constitution. Executive revision of East's governmental system may be upcoming in interests of effective administration.

"Peace Committee" in East Fails

During first week of May a so-called "peace committee" visited Port Harcourt and other Eastern Region centers ostensibly obtain reconciliation of antagonistic Eastern elements. Many leaders refused to see them and no results obtained. Failure was foreordained by NCNC make-up of committee and fact its members all members Ibo tribes. Committee headed by Louis P. OJUKWU, well-known Nigerian transport company head.

Only tangible result seems to be incidental collection of sizeable sums for party election fund

Cameroons Group Plans Boycott Eastern Elections

Dr. E. M. ENDELEY, central Minister of Labor and a leader of the Kamerun United National Congress, has asked residents of the British Cameroons to fefrain from voting in forthcoming Eastern Region elections. He and his group are asking a separate legislature for the Cameroons in view of the NCNC control of the Eastern House and that party's failure to act in the best interests of the Cameroons. Cameroons leaders have stated that they cannot rely upon AZIKIWE or any other Nigerian political leader any longer.

Rejection of the Cameroons' Mr. S. MUNA as a Regional Minister by the NCNC members of Eastern House before its dissolution was taken by Cameroonians as a demonstration of the party's failure to consider the Cameroons' interests. Government had proposed Muna, as constitution calls for at least one membersof Executive Council (East) from Cameroons. NCNC probably turned Muna down in order to further their desire to make Council illegally-constituted body.

Western House

RESTRICTED
(Classification)

Western House of Assembly Adjourns

Western legislature adjourned after short session which pass Local Government Ordinance in form approved by central Council of Ministers. Also passed, with large majority, a motion calling for Nigerian self-government in 1956. Relative inactivity result of flux of Nigerian politics at present.

Western local governments in several localities meeting stiff opposition in attempts to collect newly-levied capitation and education taxes. These incidents pressage Action Group difficulties in carrying out expensive "welfare" and education projects promised by party.

ECONOMIC

International Bank Mission in Nigeria

Considerable interest by Nigerian press and others has been shown in the recent visit by an International Bank Mission to Nigeria. The Mission's members; Patterson FRENCH, John ADLER, Walter ARMSTRONG and John PHILLIPS have visited several localities in Nigeria and made most favorable impressions. Preliminary conclusions by the Mission are being eagerly awaited in many quargers here.

During the reporting officer's tour of the Eastern Region (May 6th to 15th) he was questioned about the Mission by both Nigerians and non-Nigerians. One of primary interests of questioners was whether or not the Bank is "controlled" by the U.S. Government. However, it is not felt that there is a critically important amount of opinion that the Bank is an extension of the U.S. Government.

Official Produce Inspectors Accused of Overgrading Cocoa

Produce Inspectors of the Department of Marketing and Exports have come under investigation by the Criminal Intelligence Division of the Nigeria Police. At least one Nigerian inspector charged at court for deliberately grading inferior cocoa at a higher export grade in Lagos. Has long been rather common knowledge that Nigerian produce, including cocoa, has been shipped under false grading. Officials believed that their inspectors passed poor cocoa and rubber in return for bribes, but had not previously been able to build a legal case. Beyond several expected arrests, it is expected that the Department will transfer several inspectors upcountry from Lagos.

Nigerian Sugar

RESTRICTED
(Classification)

Nigerian Sugar Import System Altered

Imports of sugar to Nigeria have now been placed under a Nigerian Specific Import License instead of being subject to control by export control agencies in the U.K. Previous sytem put smaller, locally constituted firms at a disadvantage as exports of sugar were alloted on basis past sales. New system gives equal standing all reputable importers making application.

Robert W. Ross

Robert W. Ross
American Vice Consul

RESTRICTED